

CITY CONNECTION

MORGAN HILL NEWS

A Publication of The City of Morgan Hill

April 2007



**Depot Street
Opening Celebration**
page 3

AFTER BEFORE



WWW.MORGANHILL.CA.GOV

EVENTS CALENDAR

ART EXHIBITS AT THE MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER

Local artist Kay Keeshan has her watercolors and pastels on display from March 19 thru April 20, 2007. The public is invited to view the art work during Monday and Friday from 8 P.M. to 5 P.M. and Tuesday to Thursday with extended hours from 8 A.M to 8 P.M.. The public is invited to a reception honoring the artist on Friday, April 6 from 6:30 P.M. to 8 P.M.

AQUATICS CENTER

May 26, 2007 | Opening Day at the Aquatics Center

Family Fun Night at the AC: Every Monday and Wednesday night from 7-8:30 P.M. from June 11th to August 17th. All Pools Open!!

CENTENNIAL RECREATION CENTER

April 14, 2007 | The Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce and the Centennial Recreation Center will be sponsoring a Health & Wellness Fair at the Centennial Recreation Center from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact Dan Ehrler at the Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce, 779-9444.

COMING TO THE COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE

May 11 - June 2 | California Suite

Presented by the South Valley Civic Theatre
Tickets available at the Community Center. For additional information call 842-SHOW or visit www.svct.org

May 12 - June 1 | Plaza Suite

Presented by the South Valley Civic Theatre
Tickets available at the Community Center. For additional information call 842-SHOW or visit www.svct.org

Last Thursday of Every Month | Comedy Night at the Playhouse

Tickets at the door - \$12 / Advance tickets are \$10
Doors open at 6:30 P.M. - show begins at 7:30 P.M.
(not recommended for children under 18)
For additional information call 782-0008 or visit www.wesjoke.com/playhouse

For additional information on all Playhouse performances, contact Karen Lengsfeld at Morgan Hill Community Playhouse 408.782.0008.



City of Morgan Hill
17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill
408-779-7271

CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Mayor Steve Tate | 779-7259 |
| Mayor Pro Tempore Larry Carr | 779-7259 |
| Councilmember Mark Grzan | 779-7259 |
| Councilmember Marby Lee | 779-7259 |
| Councilmember Greg Sellers | 779-7259 |
| City Clerk Irma Torrez | 779-7259 |
| City Treasurer Michael Roorda | 778-3653 |

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

| |
|--|
| City Manager J. Edward Tewes |
| City Attorney Janet Kern |
| Assistant to the City Manager Brian Stott |
| Business Assistance/Housing Services Director Garrett Toy |
| Community Development Director Kathy Molloy Previsich |
| Council Services and Records Manager Irma Torrez |
| Finance Director Jack Dilles |
| Human Resources Director Mary Kaye Fisher |
| Police Chief Bruce Cumming |
| Public Works Director Jim Ashcraft |
| Recreation and Community Services Director Steve Rymer |

CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Animal Control | 776-7300 |
| Aquatics Center | 782-2134 |
| Business Assistance and Housing Services | 776-7373 |
| City Clerk | 779-7259 |
| City Manager | 779-7271 |
| Community and Cultural Center | 782-0008 |
| Emergency Services/Disaster Preparedness | 776-7310 |
| Environmental Programs | 779-7247 |
| Finance | 779-7237 |
| Fire Department (County Fire) | 378-4010 |
| Job Hotline | 779-7276 |
| Planning: Land Use/Zoning | 779-7247 |
| Police Administration | 776-7315 |
| Public Works | 776-7337 |
| Recreation and Community Services | 782-0008 |
| Water | 779-7221 |
| Volunteer Programs | 782-0008 |
| City Hall Fax Number | 779-3117 |

City Website: www.morganhill.ca.gov

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Connection are welcome.
Contact the editor Brian Stott at 779-7271 or brian.stott@morganhill.ca.gov. City Connection is published by the City of Morgan Hill.

**Special Rates
for CRC Member**


**MORGAN HILL
AQUATICS CENTER**
www.mhaquaticscenter.com
408.782.2134

Extra Cool Family Summer Pass:

Unlimited entry during the Pre-Season, Summer Season, and Post Season for a family of five during public recreation swim hours only. The family includes 2 adults and three children in the same household. Any additional children are only \$15 each. Entrance into all Special Events included.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | City Resident . . . | Non-Resident |
| CRC Member | \$150.00 | \$225.00 |
| Before May 31st | \$200.00 | \$250.00 |
| Full Season | \$225.00 | \$275.00 |

**SEASON PASS
EARLY BIRD
SPECIAL**

*No refunds, prorates, or credits for closures of the facility or individual attractions (scheduled or unscheduled) for daily admission fees or passes.

City Beautification Day

Coming Soon to a Park Near You

City Beautification Day, your chance to get out and make a difference in YOUR community, is coming up on May 19th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. On Beautification Day, individuals, families and groups all work together to improve the community in a variety of ways. Projects, ranging from hedge trimming to tree planting to good old litter pickup, are scheduled in locations throughout the community.

Groups wanting to volunteer should contact us soon to get a specific assignment and location that the group can report to. Individuals and families should report at 8 a.m. on May 19th at the Community and Cultural Center located at 17000 Monterey Road. All volunteers are welcome to pickup their free T-shirt and feast on a barbecue lunch at the Community and Cultural Center at noon.

So get out your gloves, work clothes, ambition and civic pride on May 19th to help Morgan Hill stay beautiful. If you desire additional information, please contact us at 779-7247 or environ@morganhill.ca.gov.



A Sign of the Times

It's Spring and the many signs of the Spring are around us. From the flowering trees to the lengthening days, the Spring is a great season in Morgan Hill. But there is one "sign of Spring" that isn't so welcome - the excess of Garage Sale signs blanketing our power poles, traffic signal poles, and fences.

Signs advertising Garage Sales should never be placed in areas where they interfere with motorists' visibility or serve as a distraction in road medians and corners. Furthermore, no-one appreciates being reminded about a sale that has already occurred, so please remove any signs that you do post when your sale is over. Your neighbors will appreciate it and it's just one more thing you can do to keep Morgan Hill Beautiful.



Depot Street "Opening Celebration" Coming Soon

After months of dirt flying, construction equipment rumbling, and one-way traffic routing, Depot Street opened for regular traffic in early March.

According to project manager, Assistant Engineer Yat Cho, a number of minor landscaping items are still to be installed. However, none of this will disrupt traffic flow and the regular conduct of business along Depot Street.

However, there is still one item that might tie up the street for a couple of hours in the near future: "The Depot Street Opening Celebration."

This festive open-to-the-public event will serve as a symbolic ribbon cutting and the unveiling of the "Waiting for the Train" sculpture at the intersection of Depot and Third streets. All of this will be accompanied by music, fanfare, and refreshments. The event, to be held in late April, will be hosted by the City of Morgan Hill, the Morgan Hill Community Foundation, and friends of local sculptor Marlene Amerian. Details will be provided through the local newspaper and through posted flyers.

The Depot Street reconstruction project, which commenced in September, covers nearly the entire length of the street, from Main Street to Fifth Street. The work consists of colored concrete, new sidewalks and curb/gutter, roadway reconstruction, public art, public furniture (seating, benches, a bike rack, and custom trash receptacles). Also creating a distinctive look are crosswalks with stamped concrete, and new trees/shrubs and landscaping, and decorative street lighting.

The \$2.6 million of the project cost was funded by a Federal grant that came by way of the California Metropolitan Transportation Commission, as well as additional funding by the City of Morgan Hill Redevelopment Agency.



Earth Day Festivities

City residents are invited to celebrate Earth Day with the City of Morgan Hill at its Annual Earth Day Art & Science Fair. Dozens of unique and inventive projects from Morgan Hill's most talented students will be presented at the city's celebration.

Come be inspired by the vision of today's youth to help the public understand the importance of recycling beverage containers and keeping our storm drains clean. The fourth annual Earth Day Art & Science Fair will be held at the Community and Cultural Center located at 17000 Monterey Road (at the Corner of East Dunne) from 12-4 pm on Sunday, April 22.

A Healthy You Starts With a Healthy Earth

The City has been focusing much recent effort on community health. We all realize that a healthy community is an important building block to community prosperity and satisfaction. In short, we're more likely to be happy if we're healthy. While many of us focus inward when thinking about our health, don't forget to look outward to the environment as well. Simply put, we can't be completely healthier if we're living in a polluted environment.

Keeping pollutants out of our stormwater system is one area where individual actions can have a huge impact. Unlike some forms of pollution which come from sources like factories or farms, most of the pollution in our local creeks comes from the activities of the average resident. That's right, that car that drops a bit of oil, the fertilizer that runs off of the lawn, and the soap and grime that run off the driveway when we wash a car are all major sources of pollution that contaminate our local creeks. When creeks get contaminated, local wildlife suffers and the pollution ultimately winds up in the ocean and where it gets absorbed by the fish and shellfish that are sold back to us as food. This is why a healthy YOU starts with a healthy EARTH.

Here are some key strategies for keeping pollution out of our stormwater system and local creeks:

- Find some alternative ways to control pests inside and outside your home, and enrich your soil without toxic chemical pesticides. If you do use pesticides, use them sparingly and according to the directions specified on packaging. Do not use if rain is forecast within 24 hours. Take unwanted pesticides to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event or call to schedule a drop-off appointment at 299-7300.
- Clean up trash outside your home. Pick up leaves and yard clippings and recycle as green waste. If you see litter, pick it up and put it in a trash can.
- If you change your own oil, recycle the waste oil at the curb or take it to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. Regularly maintain your car to avoid leaks of auto fluids. Never pour oil or other automobile fluids into a storm drain or onto the ground.
- Wash your car on an unpaved area or better yet, take it to a commercial car wash.
- Pick up your pet droppings and dispose of them in the trash or in your toilet.
- Use kitty litter or other absorbent materials (not your hose) to clean up spills and leaks on paved surfaces. Remember to clean up and properly dispose of the used absorbent.
- Rinse latex paint brushes, pans and rollers in the sink. Filter and reuse oil-based paint thinner or brush cleaners. Take leftover latex and oil-based paints and solvents to a hazardous waste collection event. Never pour paint or solvents into a storm drain, sink or onto the ground.
- Control erosion around your property to prevent dirt and debris being carried into the storm drain.
- Divert rainspouts and garden hoses away from paved surfaces to prevent water from carrying pollutants directly into storm drains. Provide landscaping next to sidewalks and driveways to collect runoff from paved surfaces.

With a little care and common sense, we can all play a major role in keeping our local creeks healthy.

Auto Burglaries

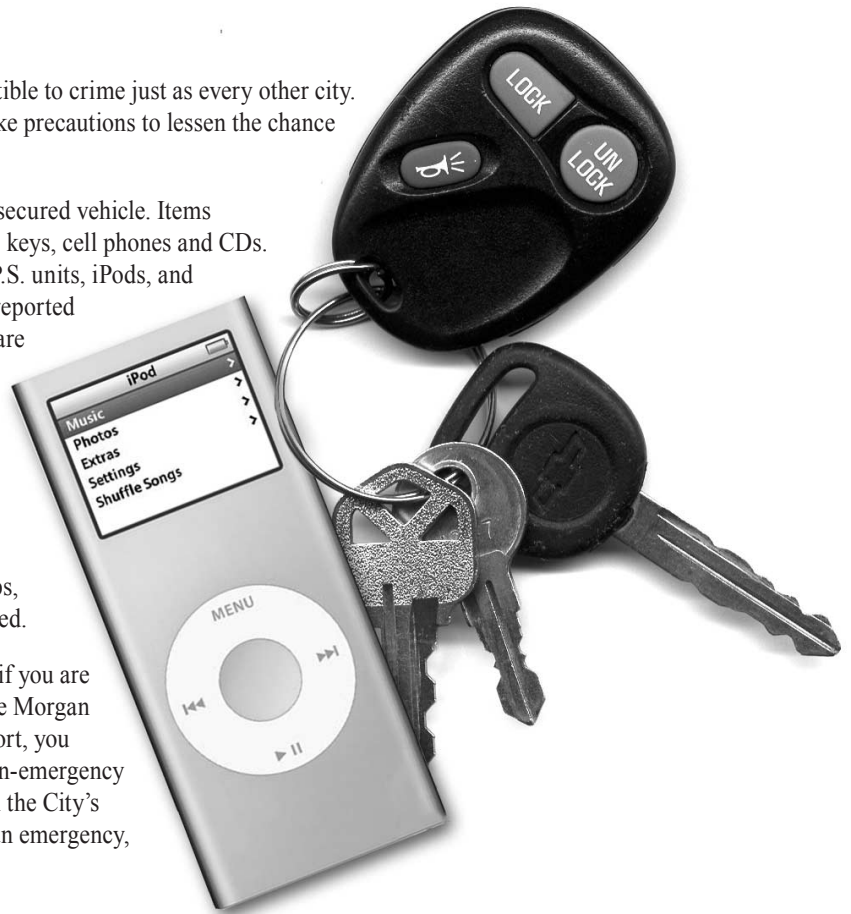
Morgan Hill is a safe community, however it is susceptible to crime just as every other city.

Auto burglaries occur in Morgan Hill but you can take precautions to lessen the chance of being victimized.

Auto burglary is theft of property of any value from a secured vehicle. Items commonly stolen from vehicles include cash, purses, keys, cell phones and CDs. With modern technology and electronic gadgets, G.P.S. units, iPods, and lap top computers are also frequently items that are reported stolen. By leaving items visible in your vehicle, you are more likely to become a target.

To lessen your odds of becoming a target of auto burglary, store valuable items in your trunk or take them with you. Lock your vehicle, close all windows and take your keys even if you step away for a quick moment. Be aware of where you park. Park in well-lighted and visible areas. By taking these simple steps, you can significantly reduce the odds of being targeted.

If you see a suspicious person leering into a vehicle or if you are a victim of auto burglary, don't hesitate to contact the Morgan Hill Police Department. To file an auto burglary report, you can either contact the Police Department via their non-emergency line at 779-2101 or by filing a police report online on the City's Website - www.morganhill.ca.gov. However, if it is an emergency, please dial 911.



Fire Hydrant Flushing and Water Quality

Fire hydrants are not only used for fire protection but they also are used to improve water quality. Flowing a fire hydrant stirs up the sediment from the bottom of the water main and it is then flushed out of the fire hydrant. The water goes through a dechlorination device which is attached to the fire hydrant. The water is then dechlorinated through the device which holds tablets of vitamin C. The vitamin C neutralizes the chlorine as it comes in contact with the tablets. Fire hydrants are typically located at the end of the water lines, in cul-de-sacs and approximately 500 feet apart throughout the water system.

Hydrant flushing is also necessary to test the hydrants to assess the condition of the working parts of the hydrant in order to insure their reliability. We can also determine if adequate flow and pressure is available. During the flushing operation the water could become discolored. Your water is safe to drink. If this happens, run your cold water tap for a few minutes until the water clears. If it doesn't clear the first time, wait a few minutes and run the water again. You should avoid washing clothes until the water clears.

The Public Works crews will concentrate on flushing fire hydrants during the November 1st thru April 1st time frame. This is typically the low water use time of the year. You will however find crews flushing the system at any time of the year due to water breaks or routine maintenance activities.



City's Budget Process Underway

The fiscal year 2007/08 budget process is underway. We are currently focused on updating year end projections for the current year, and engaging in internal discussions on budget priorities and anticipated expenditures for FY 2007/08. The budget approach is based upon the City Council's Sustainable Budget Strategy, as stated in the City Council's Policies and Goals for 2007, and considers current fiscal conditions. A summary schedule of the process is presented below.

- Late March - Begin extensive review meetings with the City Manager and the operating departments. These continue through mid-April.
- April 17 and April 24 - In parallel with these internal discussions we will be meeting with various stakeholder groups to receive feedback on the initial Capital Improvement Program (CIP) proposals - specifically the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Planning Commission.
- April 28th - the City Manager will finalize a FY 2007/08 Proposed Budget.
- May 11 - Proposed FY 2007/08 Budget available for distribution to the public.
- May 16 - Budget workshop with City Council. The departments will make presentations and engage in discussion with the Council.
- June 6 - Public Hearing for Proposed FY 2007/08 Budget & CIP Program and Work plan. All Morgan Hill citizens are invited!
- June 13 - City Council adopts the FY2007/08 Budget

Citizen input is encouraged during the annual budget process. To find out more, contact Mark Murray, the City's Budget Manager at 779-7237.

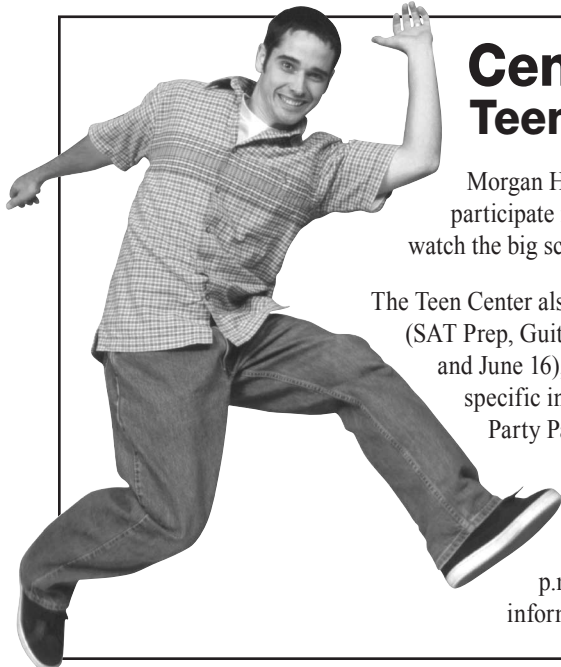
2007 Council Goals and Policies

As part of the City's Annual Goal Setting Process, the City Council, along with key City Staff attended a two-day offsite retreat held at the Community & Cultural Center to discuss issues and set policy direction for the upcoming year. This year's Council Retreat was held on January 26 and 27.

At the February 7, 2007, City Council Meeting, the City Council formally adopted Goals and Policies for 2007 that address the key issues currently facing the City including:

- Sustainable Budget Strategy
- Economic Development
- Public Safety Service Levels
- Downtown Improvements
- Environmental Agenda
- Recreation & Community Services
- Schools
- Community Development
- Policy Making

For a more detailed list of the City Council's 2007 Goals and Policies, contact the City Manager's Office at 779-7271 or visit the City's Website under the "What's New" Section at www.morganhill.ca.gov.



Centennial Recreation Center Teen Center Welcomes Teens 13 to 18

Morgan Hill teens now have a new clean, safe, supervised place to hang with friends, study, participate in a variety of games including pool, foosball, ping-pong, air hockey, as well as watch the big screen TV, and play on an Xbox 360.

The Teen Center also provides after-school homework sessions, fee-based classes geared towards teens (SAT Prep, Guitar, Self-Defense, Crafts, etc.), monthly middle school dances (April 21, May 19, and June 16), Extreme Teen Summer Camps (see the Recreation Guide or www.mhcr.com for specific information), game tournaments, movie nights, socials, and other teen activities. Teen Party Packages are also available.

The Teen Center is conveniently located at the new Centennial Recreation Center and membership is free to Morgan Hill residents ages 13 to 18 (\$10 a year for non-residents). The Teen Center hours are Monday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 2:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information call the Teen Center at 782-2128 or visit us on-line at www.mhcr.com.



Innovative Mixed-Income Housing Development Coming to Morgan Hill

South County Housing is developing an innovative residential project that will blend housing for both affordable and market rate homebuyers. The Madrone Plaza housing project will be built on 16-acres on the corner of Monterey and Cochrane Roads. South County Housing, a non-profit developer, which builds affordable housing in Morgan Hill, Gilroy and Hollister, is working in tandem with South Valley Developers, a local private developer, to build both single family and multifamily homes on the site.

Last year, South County Housing submitted a successful application to build 95 housing units through the City's Residential Development Control System (RDCS) competition. South Valley Developers also submitted a successful application to build 78 housing units. The City's slow growth policy requires developers to submit competitive applications for 250 homes to be built each year.

South County Housing will build a total of 95 homes, 69 of which will be offered for sale to median and moderate income families. The development's design includes both craftsman style townhomes and single family homes. The project will be built in two phases. Phase I will feature 26 single family homes offered at market rates to homebuyers. The

69 affordable townhomes will be sold at below market rates in order to increase the opportunity for homeownership to median and moderate income families. Those who live and/or work in Morgan Hill will receive priority to purchase one of these units.

South Valley Developers will build 78 townhomes on the site. Sixty will be offered for sale at market rates; 8 will be non-restricted moderate units and 10 will be offered through the City's Below Market Rate Housing Program.

Madrone Plaza will feature plenty of amenities for homeowners including a park, barbeque area, swimming pool, pedestrian paths, paseos, club house and basket ball and bocce ball courts. South County Housing anticipates beginning construction this summer with completion scheduled for fall 2009.

South County Housing has started an Interest List for their 95 homes. If you are interested in adding your name to the list or would like more information, call 842-9181.

For more information on the City's Below Market Rate Housing Program call the Business Assistance and Housing Services Department at 776-7373.

PARTY PACKAGES

The Party Package Program is available to the community through the City of Morgan Hill Recreation & Community Services Department for birthdays, company picnics, family reunions, weddings and other special events.



MOVIE PARTY TIME!

at the
Morgan Hill Community Playhouse
17090 Monterey Road

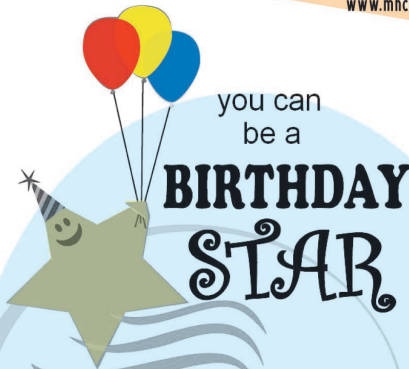
The Playhouse features fully-raked seating for approximately 180 and has a 148" X 264" motorized projection screen.

IT IS A PARTY PACKAGE
GEARED FOR ALL AGES!

Movie Party Package Includes:

- Playhouse rental which includes a lobby area for refreshments, tables and chairs are set-up in lobby to accommodate up to 30, and a small refreshment center with an
- Screen and projector
- Recreation leader assists with equipment and set-up, as well as managing the party schedule.

Contact Chiquy Mejia at (408) 782-0008
www.mhcommunitycenter.com/partypac.htm



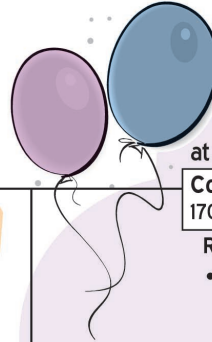
you can be a BIRTHDAY STAR

at the
MORGAN HILL AQUATICS CENTER!
16200 Condit Road

Aquatics Center Party Package includes:

- All-day admission for 15 during regular recreation hours
- 2 hours of party room access
- Special birthday T-shirt for the birthday child
- 15 birthday party invitations
- Lunch consisting of 2 large pizzas (pepperoni or cheese), 3 pitchers of soda or lemonade, and veggies & dip

Please call (408) 782-2134 x710
SwimParty@morganhill.ca.gov



Party Time!

at the
Community & Cultural Center
17000 Monterey Road

Rooms Available:

- **Children's Pavilion Room**
includes outdoor playground, amphitheater-grass area, and interactive water feature.
- **Diana Murphy Room**
includes outdoor Amphitheater-grass area and interactive water feature.

Package Program Includes:

- Special individual program of activities designed for your party by a Recreation Specialist.
- Fun Activities to choose from such as: indoor & outdoor games, races, contests, sports, obstacle course, relays, parachute, music, comedy, movements, instrument games, balloons animals (crazy hats & more) or face painting.
- Equipment, materials, supplies and staff for a variety of recreational activities.
- Optional: leadership for the piñata activity and gift opening
- We also provide ice for your drinks



Centennial Recreation Center

171 West Edmundson Avenue

PARTY PACKAGES include:

- Free T-shirt for the birthday child!
- 1 Event attendant to staff party

POOL PARTY

- 3 Hours of room rental
- Daily Recreation Swim Passes for all guests

SPORTS PARTY

- 1½ Hours of room rental
- 1½ Hours use of sports equipment and half of the Gymnasium

Contact Shelly Yowell at (408) 782-2128 x 803 or (408) 778-8286 fax
shelly.yowell@mhccr.com

City of Morgan Hill
17555 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

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